

THE
T E M P L E
OF
V I R T U E,
A
D R E A M.

PUBLISHED BY
JAMES FORDYCE, D.D.

Author of SERMONS TO YOUNG WOMEN.

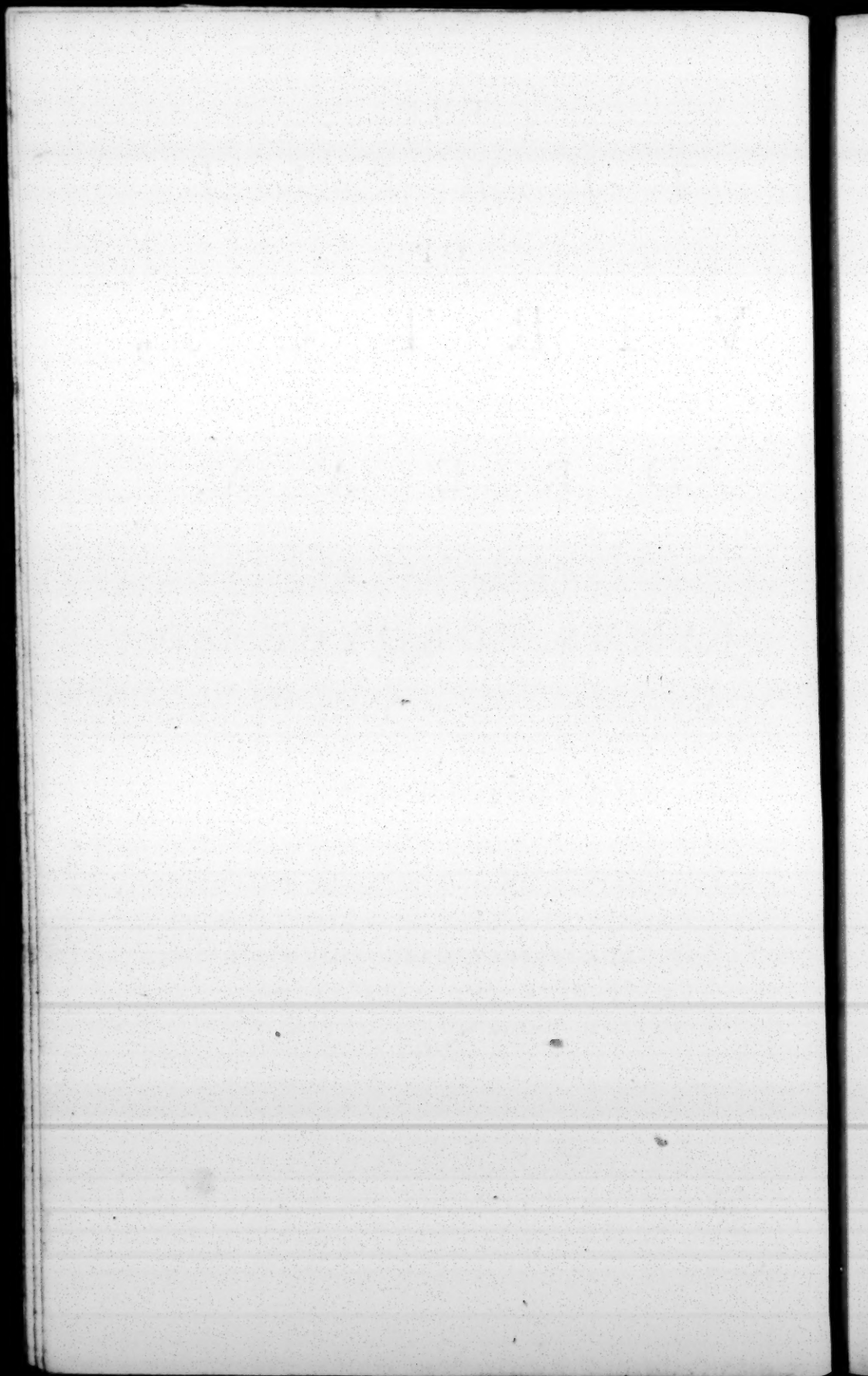
THE SECOND EDITION.

IN A DREAM, IN A VISION OF THE NIGHT,
WHEN DEEP SLEEP FALLETH UPON MEN,
IN SLUMBERINGS UPON THE BED; THEN
HE OPENETH THE EARS OF MEN; AND
SEALETH THEIR INSTRUCTION.

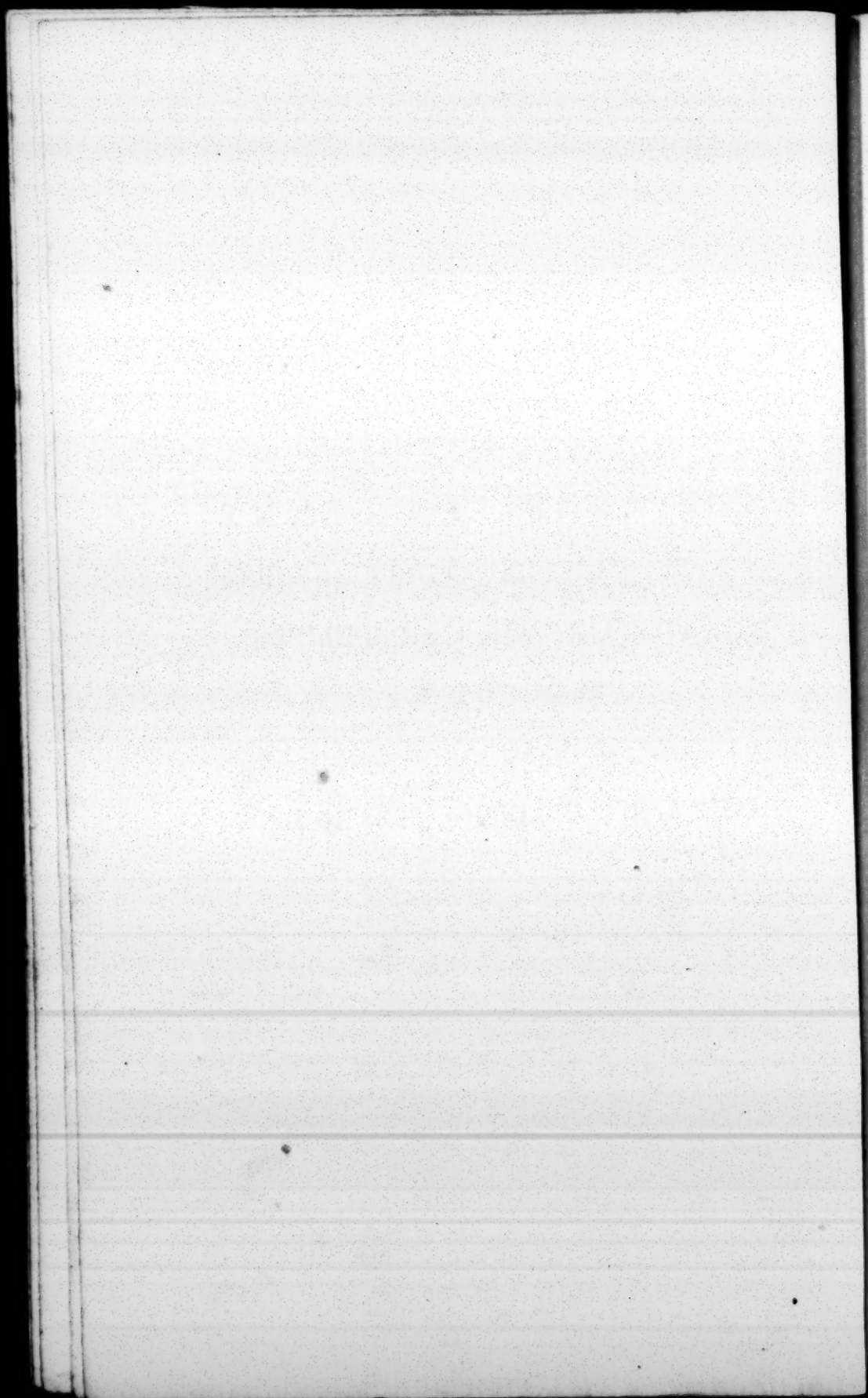
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D U B L I N :

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, W. WILSON and
R. MONCRIEFFE. M,DCC,LXXV.



T O
LADY ARABELLA DENNY
AS AN AFFECTIONATE VOTARY OF VIRTUE
THIS PICTURE OF HER TEMPLE
IS INSCRIBED
BY
HER MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT
THE EDITOR.



P R E F A C E

T O T H E

S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

OF this little piece, which has been several years out of print, the publisher was willing to supply a new edition, for the use of numbers who have expressed a wish to see it; incited, as he hopes, by the favourable report of some who have perused it with indulgence on account of its design.

The thing itself is certainly not of consequence sufficient to give it extensive currency. The subject indeed would recommend it to those readers, who are lovers of VIRTUE: but they, it is to be feared, are not the many; and even of them how small a part have probably ever heard its name? Such as have may be

vi P R E F A C E.

induced, by the title, to look into a production that professes to set before them an object, of which the bare mention cannot but impress them with respect. If, on a nearer view, they should find in it aught to engage attention, or gratify sensibility, they may possibly be prompted to speak of it with kindness to their friends, to those younger persons in particular whose improvement they would not be less happy than the editor to promote.

While the partisans of VICE, under the mask of PLEASURE, are employing every art to ensnare our youth of both sexes, the votaries of VIRTUE will naturally be zealous to put them on their guard, and guide them to her Temple, as the only abode of *genuine* Felicity: nor will such travellers, perhaps, be less pleased with the path, that it presents some entertainment, for the sake of uniting the allurements of the imagination with the convictions of the heart, and showing that Goodness is not more necessary, or more venerable, than lovely and delightful.

The

The sentiments, descriptions, and characters in general, are left as they were in the former edition; but considerable pains have been taken to render the style less incorrect.

A particular friend of the publisher, being made acquainted with the design of reprinting this small work, seemed very solicitous that so amiable a character, as that of the First Female in Britain, might have a place in the new edition. He was told, that the Dream having been published many years ago, when that Lady was not known, the editor had no right to add to the original manuscript from which it was taken. He smiled at the objection, as proceeding on too nice a refinement; and replied, that, if the picture were found like, the anachronism would easily be forgiven; that few readers would ever think of it; and that such excellence on a Throne was too uncommon, not to merit being pointed out, among the distinguished votarists of VIRTUE.

This last remark impressed the publisher so deeply, that he could not help wishing the visions of the night would be auspicious enough to correspond with the desire of a friend for whose judgment he has much respect, and to whose attachment he owes many obligations. Thus disposed he fell asleep; when Fancy, presenting the Temple, the GODDESS, her Attendants, and the Assembly, as described in the following sheets, selected the instant at which the venerable Doctor Herring had received his award, to call up the lovely image of the admired Princess now mentioned.

I N T R O -

INTRODUCTION.

IT is some time since I was intrusted by my Lord **** with the tuition of his eldest son. My first care was to find out his temper and genius. I soon discovered him to be a youth of lively parts, warm imagination, and particularly fond of such books as address themselves more immediately to that faculty. Fables, allegories, tales, romances, novels, and the sprightlier kinds of poetry, were his principal delight. He had always been indulged in this species of reading, and seemed to have very little relish for compositions of a different strain. To the sober and severe productions of philosophy he had even a dislike; and the precepts of morality he could not endure, unless they

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were conveyed in some agreeable vehicle borrowed from the stores of fancy.

The dominion, which that pleasing but volatile power possessed over him, from his original turn of mind, was confirmed by the cast of his favourite authors. These, by falling in so strongly with the bias of his nature, at that early season, had concurred to produce a light and airy disposition, which I easily foresaw would be no friend to solid and serious improvements. What was yet worse, the greater part of them, instead of making him in love with Virtue, by displaying her superior attractions, had seduced him into the admiration of her rival pleasure; whom by a shameful perversion of their art, they have dressed in her most alluring ornaments. This they had done the more effectually, as his passions, it was easy to observe, were ardent and impetuous. Unhappily too for him, his parents, who ought to have opposed and controuled them, had by a cruel indulgence, much too common, added greatly to their force.

Such

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Such discoveries were, it may be imagined, not the most encouraging. In truth, they gave me inexpressible anxiety ; which was increased by the duty I owed to the noble family, who honoured me with so high a mark of their confidence, by the friendship I conceived for my young charge, who, with an open and ingenuous aspect, had an uncommon fund of good nature and an engaging vivacity of wit ; and by frequent reflections on the importance of my trust to the interests of society, which would probably some day be not a little affected by his principles and behaviour. In these circumstances what was to be done ?

So gay a spirit would at once have revolted against grave advice, however kindly offered. Dry argumentation, with whatever fairness conducted, would have been equally disagreeable to a mind unaccustomed to argue. Airs of authority would have proved yet more disgusting to a youth so indulged. How then were we in this case to correct the irregularities, and restrain the excesses, of a sanguine
imagi-

imagination ; or by what means could we hope to moderate those inclinations, which had gathered strength from every quarter ?

The only method that seemed left, was to turn them as it were against themselves, by leading this youth to Virtue in the road of entertainment ; to insinuate a taste for learning, and the love of goodness, by exhibiting those respectable forms in lights the most familiar and attractive ; in short, by arraying Wisdom in the robes of Fancy, and showing her in all her sweetest smiles, to interest his sensibility and captivate his heart, and thus to render that very faculty, which till now had been a handmaid of Folly, ministerial to her divine Antagonist. On this plan therefore I resolved to proceed.

The more powerfully to conciliate my pupil's regard, I joined to every other honest art, that of expressing, what indeed I had always felt, a particular esteem for the most celebrated works of imagination. I desired him to favour me with a few of his books in that style, testifying a wish to peruse them, and naming such as I
knew

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knew to be most instructive and moral, that I might afterwards commend them to him with the greater freedom. I put into his hands some others of the same character, which he had not yet seen. I would frequently make him read to me select passages out of them, when I never failed to signify the satisfaction they gave me. I would sometimes read to him in my turn, and with that kind of emphasis and manner, which seemed both to surprise and delight him. By entering so deeply into his darling amusement, I soon gained his affection; and I could often, while we were thus employed, perceive his face to flush with a mixture of gratitude and joy.

He had learned Latin, Greek, and French, in a neighbouring school, the master of which informed me, that, notwithstanding his quickness of apprehension, he had found it very difficult to teach him those languages, on account of a certain giddy disposition, which rendered him peculiarly backward to a study so laborious and unengaging. That he might
be

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be induced to resume it with less reluctance, I assured him he would receive from many of the writers in these tongues endless entertainment of the highest kind, which he could never enjoy in the same perfection from the best translations ; and I promised to assist him in reading the most amusing works of genius both ancient and modern.

We went to work accordingly ; and by explaining to him difficulties, illustrating beauties, frequently varying the subjects, always intermixing such stories and observations as appeared most likely to amuse or affect him, and still showing a proper attention to his questions and remarks, which were often pertinent and sprightly, I had the pleasure of seeing him contract insensibly a liking to the languages, and a relish for study.

Encouraged by this success, I now ventured to blend with our gayer authors some of a graver vein, who, at the same time that they excelled in the powers of imagination, abounded in the noblest views of life and nature, and availed themselves of the former to set off the last with advantage.

vantage. In going through them with my young friend, I was sure to mark with approbation the beauty and force of the style; the brightness and elevation of the ideas; the novelty, the grace, or the grandeur of the imagery. When he appeared delighted with any of these, I seized that opportunity to point out more strongly the sublime and striking lessons of truth, of piety, of justice, of generosity, of self-command, and public zeal, which they were designed to inculcate: I endeavoured to make him sensible, that Fancy in those writers was under the controul of Judgment, the superior faculty originally ordained to govern, and without whose direction the other would have served only to mislead them; that the natural and moral paintings for which they were admired had all an important signification; that the proportions of the several figures were generally as just, as the colouring was agreeable; that it was the chasteness, the simplicity, the unaffected greatness of such productions, with their application to characters and manners, which gave them their

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their highest value, and procured to their authors distinguished honour from the best judges.

I farther showed him how the Muses were, from the earliest ages, professedly consecrated to the service of religion and society, although they have been since too often sacrilegiously alienated from this their worthiest destination; how they were actually employed to enlighten an ignorant and civilize a savage race, to enforce and elevate devotion, to inspire and strengthen a reverence for the laws, an affection for the community, a principle of obedience to parents and governors, a sense of whatever is decent, excellent, or heroic, and an emulation of virtuous fame; how they performed all this by celebrating the praises of the Divinity, by rehearsing the achievements of divine and illustrious men, and by representing in animated pictures whatever is praise-worthy in sentiments and actions, with all that is happy and glorious in their effects; and how, on the other hand, they helped to restrain the wildness, and reduce the wanderings, of the

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the passions, by displaying in the most moving examples the violent convulsions, the horrible outrages, the unnatural guilt, the complicated and countless miseries, which those have produced among the different ranks, and through the successive generations, of mankind.

When I observed my pupil beginning to enter into these views, and to form of course a more exalted idea of those writings which he had heretofore regarded only in the light of entertainment; I proceeded to make him acquainted with some of the most valuable works of the Historical kind, such as contain a spirited and succinct account of those periods, which have been famous for the most remarkable personages and events. These not only engaged his attention, and gratified his thirst of novelty, but tended to confirm in some degree the reflections I had made from the Poets; at the same time that they served to instruct him in the condition of human life, by letting him see from indubitable facts, that though piety and irreligion, temperance and luxury,

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ury, integrity and villainy, Virtue and Vice in general, are frequently followed, in the present state, with the consequences which these writers award to them, according to the laws of poetic justice, they are yet far from being uniformly so; and that, how much soever a worthy character is constantly preferable to the reverse on all other accounts, it is still true that in this world the best men have often the most afflicted lot, and the worst the most triumphant. A discovery which seemed to fill him with astonishment and horror, to remove a part of that delusive glare with which the continual sight of opulence and greatness, joined to the prospect of future wealth and distinction, had dazzled him, and consequently to lower his lofty hopes of happiness from things external.

Of this occasion I laid hold to set forth the superiority, and necessity, of those internal goods, which are independent on the caprices of men, and the casualties of life; and which are many times enjoyed most, when other possessions are at the lowest

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lowest ebb. An enlightened understanding, a correct imagination, and moderate passions; intentions universally upright, pursued with vigour, with temper, and perseverance; a spirit erect and firm, unawed by power, unseduced by pleasure, and unsubdued by pain, yet tractable and mild, awake to the finer feelings of humanity, and open to conviction; with loyalty and attachment to a man's prince and country, warmth and fidelity to his friends, a generous pity and forgiveness of his enemies; and to crown all the rest, an unreserved devotedness to god; these, I told him, these were the only satisfying and abiding acquisitions, which rendered a person contented and estimable in every state, even in the depth of disgrace and poverty; as, on the contrary, no possible affluence or titles could rescue, from contempt and wretchedness, a wicked or a foolish creature.

At present I did little more, indeed, than hint at such subjects, and others connected with them; as, the advantages for attaining this exalted station which are
derived

derived from Divine Philosophy, more especially that of JESUS, and particularly those superior aids and elevating prospects, which that sovereign Master holds out to his disciples. Of these points it seemed proper to delay a larger explanation till afterwards, when my pupil's capacity should be more proportioned to them, and the effervescence of juvenile fancy should give place to the coolness of mature judgment.

But that the whole might leave, in the mean time, some sensible impression, I here assumed a countenance more serious than usual, took him by the hand, and addressing him with a voice and air both affectionate and solemn, I said, " My dearest
 " youth, you know my zeal for your welfare. To those good qualities, which I
 " discerned in you from the first, I was
 " not indifferent. I am now much more
 " attached to you, on account of your
 " daily advances in Virtue and Learning.
 " I wish to behold you at last an accomplished, a worthy, and an illustrious
 " man. I wish it for your own sake, for
 " that

“ that of your honoured parents, and for
“ the sake of your country. Nor am I with-
“ out hopes of enjoying this felicity.” I
paused. He melted into tears, stole a
look of grateful respect, and then cast
down his eyes, as overwhelmed with the
sensitivity of a mind that panted for excel-
lence, but felt its own defects. I em-
braced him and proceeded; “ Yes, my
“ friend, your best interests are dear to me,
“ and your growing improvements give
“ me delight. Your modesty and diffi-
“ dence are graceful. You have, indeed,
“ much to acquire. You are, in compa-
“ rison, but beginning the glorious career
“ of goodness, and of knowledge. On
“ yourself, next to Heaven, it will depend,
“ what progress you shall make hereafter;
“ and on that again will depend your hap-
“ piness and your consequence in life.
“ You are born to an ample fortune, and
“ considerable honours: but remember, it
“ is the more respectable qualifications of
“ the mind, and of the heart, that must
“ render the others, when you arrive at
“ them, sources of true enjoyment and
dignity.

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“dignity. It is you must adorn your
“rank, instead of being adorned by it.
“High birth, with low passions and mean
“talents serves only to make a man more
“conspicuously little ; and great affluence
“hoarded with avarice, or dissipated with
“profusion, is at best but gilded misery :
“whereas by possessing a noble soul, in-
“dulging a virtuous munificence, despis-
“ing the poorness of sensual pursuits, and
“abhorring the baseness of every dishonest
“practice ; by a behaviour at once pious,
“unassuming, manly ; and the persevering
“study of polite and solid literature ; you
“will justly become the darling, as you
“are already the hope, of your family :
“your friends will both love and revere
“you : your acquaintances will say to
“each other, If that young man lives, he
“will be an ornament and a blessing to
“his relations, to Britain, to mankind :
“every elegant as well as rational enter-
“tainment will attend you, and yield the
“highest relish, by being seasoned with
“health and innocence : you will be
“a favourite of the Muses ; Philosophy
“herself

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“ herself will light you in the way to present pleasure; and the great Restorer, Lover, and Guardian of human kind, will conduct you to immortality.”

Some time after this, as we sat one evening in the long gallery where we commonly chose to study, which looked into a garden, and commanded at some distance the view of meadows, hills, and villages, with a pastoral river winding through them. The weather being remarkably fine, we opened the nearest window, to enjoy the fresh air and the various prospect. It was now early summer. Nature appeared in her highest bloom, and greatest benignity : she was all sweetness and splendour. Her unnumbered offspring shared her bounty in forms infinitely diversified. Her vocal children shouted for joy. Was it possible to behold her, and her happy family, unaffected, undelighted; or listen to her little choristers, who seemed to contend with one another in carolling her praise, and not to be prompted to join in the general hymn? I could not resist so pleasing an impulse; but after a pause
of

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of contemplative rapture, rising up I recited with warmth some beautiful descriptions of the season, which I recollected from different poets. The fancy of my youthful friend immediately took fire; and with a charming enthusiasm he echoed them in similar descriptions. Willing to cherish so fine a flame, I added a few passages more of the same kind. At last expressing my esteem for the singularly picturesque and moral genius of *Thomson*, I repeated from his *Summer* the following lines:

Thick, in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
Upward and downward, thwarting and convolv'd,
The quivering nations sport; till tempest-wing'd,
Fierce Winter sweeps them from the face of day.
Even so luxurious men, unheeding pass
An idle summer's life in fortune's shine,
A season's glitter! Thus they flutter on
From toy to toy, from vanity to vice;
Till blown away by death, oblivion comes
Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

Here I was led to regret in general the folly and wretchedness of those who, relinquishing the peaceful and pleasant path of Virtue, wander into the by-ways of Forbidden Pleasure, where all is unsatisfying and tumultuous, and where a transient
gleam

gleam of gratifications at best trifling, is followed by a long winter of solid misery.

As the security of my noble charge was inseparably connected with a deep persuasion of this point, I thought the present no improper opportunity to enforce it. And that I might render the subject more agreeable, by embellishing it with the colours of Fancy, which never failed to delight him, I stepped to one of the book-cases, and taking down the second volume of *DIALOGUES ON EDUCATION*, read to him from the Sixteenth Dialogue, a Dream concerning *PLEASURE*, in which, under a great variety of imagery and characters, drawn from the poetic and from the living worlds, are shadowed out, after the manner of some ancient moralists, the accursed arts of that Enchantress, in deluding, disappointing, and destroying unwary mortals.

My pupil appeared very sensibly affected. He often changed colour in the progress of the narrative. His countenance, which was naturally expressive, sometimes lowered with indignation at the strong pictures he there saw exhibited of vice and villainy,

sometimes brightened into approbation of the just awards he found adjudged to the guilty, and at other times smiled with contempt of the foppery and futility, which are exposed in some of the ideal personages. So much did the whole visionary scene engage him, that he hung upon my words with eager suspense to the conclusion. He then seemed lost in thought; from which he no sooner recovered himself, than he exclaimed, "What pity the author should have ended so soon! Or has he made amends, by communicating more such visions elsewhere?" Observing me silent, he added, "Is not Virtue usually spoken of by the poets as a real person? Why did not this writer publish something in the same way concerning Virtue? It must have been equally instructive, and more delightful."

The thought was not unreasonable. I reflected on it at parting, retired into the garden, and there revolved all that had passed. This, with the beauty of surrounding Nature, the serenity and stillness of approaching night, and a state of mind
equally

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equally undisturbed, concurred to produce the happiest flow of ideas I had ever experienced. Imagination stretched her pinions, as if meditating a higher flight: some friendly spirit seemed to whisper sublimer things: my breast heaved with the force of those conceptions which now possessed it. In this situation I strayed insensibly into an adjoining summer-house, where, throwing myself down upon a couch, I unexpectedly fell asleep, and was favoured with the following Dream; which, when I awaked, and recollected it, I thought might be of use to confirm my pupil in the love of Virtue. As it was long, I wrote it down, and some days after read it to him in our favourite gallery.

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I FANCIED that I was suddenly transported into the Palace of PLEASURE, which I had seen described the evening before, where, notwithstanding the magnificence of the mansion, and the speciousness of the Goddess, that struck at first sight, I disco-

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vered, on a cloſer ſurvey, ſuch an air of affectation and deceit in both, with ſuch a look of real diſtreſs in many of her votaries, ill concealed under artificial ſmiles, as, joined to the impreſſions remaining on me from my waking thoughts, ſoon convinced me, that the whole was a pernicious contrivance to ſeduce and ruin unhappy men: on which I broke away with diſdain and horreur, and made all the haſte in my power from the enchanted valley where the Palace ſtood. When I had reached what I judged a ſafe diſtance, I began to lament in my own mind the miſery of ſuch as are taken in the ſnares of that wicked Sorcerers.

Here I was met by the good Old Man of whom I had read but a few hours before, whom I recognized by his employment of giving directions to young travellers, and who, I could readily remember, was called THE GENIUS OF EDUCATION. Perceiving me in a penſive and melancholy mood, he addreſſed me with much kindneſs, and inquired the cauſe. I told him where I had been, and what I had obſerved, with the ſorrowful reflections I could not forbear

to

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to make on the fate of so many deluded wretches; and subjoined, that being myself a youth of little experience, in quest of HAPPINESS, I was uncertain what road to pursue. He looked upon me with generous compassion, and desired me to follow him.

He then conducted me along a winding path up a hill, on the summit of which resided a sedate and thoughtful man, well advanced in years, who, he informed me, was one of his near relations. We found him lodged in a lofty pavilion, from whence there was a prospect of the country on every side; and he appeared, as we approached, to sit in a musing posture on a chair of polished metal, which diffused about him an uncommon lustre, and reflected strong and full the images of things. Placed before him was a noble telescope of exquisite workmanship, by the help of which the most distant objects might be easily and distinctly discerned.

My Guide acquainted me, that the name of this respectable personage was CONTEMPLATION; that he was one of the eldest

sions of *Wisdom*, and that he was posted on that hill by the sovereign of a great adjoining empire, called VIRTUE, to instruct those who were travelling towards her Temple. His aspect was solemn, serene, and piercing. There was something majestic in those wrinkles, with which age and meditation had marked his forehead; and his grey hairs were “a crown of glory.”

As we entered his pavilion, he rose up with an awful composure, and came forward to receive us with remarkable sublimity in his air and gesture. Struck with reverence, I at first beheld him in respectful silence; but, reassured by his encouraging looks, I represented to him, that, having been lately in the Palace of the Enchantress, PLEASURE, I was soon aware of her destructive wiles, had speedily made my escape, and was now in search of HAPPINESS. The venerable Power replied, that as he was the professed friend and guardian of youth, he would undertake to direct me, if I was disposed to put myself under his care. Having thankfully accepted his offer, and being warmly recommended

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mended to him by my former Guide, he seated me by him, and bad me observe, from the advantageous situation in which I now was, the wide-expanded regions that lay below, and the innumerable multitude of travellers that crossed it in a thousand different roads.

“ That large tract,” said he, “ which
 “ you see towards the left hand, so varie-
 “ gated with hills, and dales, and groves,
 “ and streams, and so thronged with inha-
 “ bitants and passengers, is the dominion
 “ of the Sorceress, VICE; for so she is pro-
 “ perly called, although she boldly assumes
 “ the more honourable appellation of PLEA-
 “ SURE. In that seemingly delicious valley,
 “ which lies in the heart of the country,
 “ you see her Palace, where you lately was.
 “ To confirm you in your opinion of her
 “ character, you may observe,” said he,
 desiring me to look through the telescope,
 “ how some of those miserable beings, her
 “ votaries, are bewildered in the mazes of
 “ the wood which grows hard by; how
 “ others of them wander up and down from
 “ one bower of her gardens to another,
 B 4 “ forlorn

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“ forlorn and distracted; while many of
 “ them are dragged away to a dirty cave,
 “ concealed from those who enter her
 “ Palace, at the farther end of a long lane
 “ behind it, and called *The Cave of Poverty*:
 “ a horrid place, of which the mistress sits
 “ in gloomy state, on a large rough stone,
 “ clad in rags, shivering with cold, pining
 “ with hunger, and environed by a set of
 “ dismal figures eyeing her and one another
 “ with dejection and amazement. Some of
 “ their names are *Discontent, Lamentation,*
 “ *Mean-spiritedness, Flattery, Greediness, Sus-*
 “ *picion, Dishonesty, Despair.*”

“ Not far from thence you may per-
 “ ceive a strong prison, which is styled
 “ *The House of Discipline.* It is kept by
 “ two fierce and frightful figures, called
 “ *Punishment and Terrour,* who are fur-
 “ nished with various instruments of toil,
 “ pain, and disgrace, for the chastisement
 “ of such malefactors as are delivered into
 “ their hands.

“ But now,” proceeded he, “ cast your
 “ eyes again over the country which I
 “ showed you. It is divided into sundry
 “ districts,

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“ districts, lying in a circle round the Palace of PLEASURE. In their respective centers stand the seats of her principal ministers, who are always subject to her will, subservient to her interests, and ready to attend her court.

“ On one side,” to which he pointed the glass, “ you see,” said he, “ the Mansion of *Luxury*, magnificent and splendid in the extreme, raised with a profusion of expence, and adorned on every hand with all the ostentation of art.” And here he desired me to mark with particular care an outlet from the gardens, leading directly to *The Cave of Poverty*.

Then turning the telescope to another side, “ Yonder,” he continued, “ is the House of *Intemperance*. It resembles, as you may observe, a great inn, of which the gate stands always open, and into which crowds are continually hastening. You may remark, that hardly any come out with the same countenance, or shape, with which they entered, but are transformed into the likeness of different beasts. At a little distance is a large

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“hospital, or lazar-house, into which the
 “poor wretches are thrown from time to
 “time, loaded with all manner of diseases,
 “and condemned to sickness, pain, and
 “putrefaction.”

Directing the glass another way, he next
 showed me the Tower of *Ambition*, built
 on the top of a very high hill. “Thi-
 “ther,” said he, “you behold multitudes
 “climbing from different quarters, strug-
 “gling who shall get first, and pushing
 “down those before them. On one side
 “is a flowery but dangerous precipice,
 “from which the greater part, after having
 “with infinite toil and contention gained
 “it, tumble headlong into a bottomless
 “gulf, and are never heard of more. On
 “the other side is a secret path, which
 “grows broader by degrees. At the en-
 “try to it stands a smooth and artful vil-
 “lain, called *Corruption*, holding in one
 “hand ribbons, and in the other bags of
 “gold, which, under many a specious pre-
 “text, he presents to travellers, according
 “to their several tastes. The path, after
 “winding up the hill, leads down again by
 “a quick

“ a quick descent, till it terminates in a
 “ dark dungeon, styled *The Dungeon of*
 “ *Infamy*. You see what numbers are
 “ drawn into it; and of these not a few,
 “ who not only rejected for a long time
 “ the offers of *Corruption*, but loudly ex-
 “ claimed against all that embraced them.

“ The valley below,” continued my In-
 structor, bending down the telescope, “ is
 “ possessed by *Vanity*, whose district you
 “ may perceive is better peopled than
 “ those of the other followers of PLEA-
 “ SURE, which you have already seen.”
 Into her gaudy dwelling she allures pas-
 sengers, chiefly by promising to lead them
 to the Palace of her mistress, through the
 Temple of *Fame*, which she pretends is
 just in her neighbourhood, and only to be
 come at by passing through her mansion,
 although in reality the right road to it
 lies through the Temple of VIRTUE, to
 which it is almost contiguous. Those who
 are so weak as to be seduced by her are
 commonly consigned over to the scoffs of
Ridicule; a formidable Power, who wears
 on his face a perpetual sneer, and who,
 after

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after treating them with proper marks of scorn, shuts them up in an obscure cell, called *The Cell of Contempt*.

After this CONTEMPLATION pointed out to me, in a remote corner of the country, that had the appearance of being disjoined from all the rest, a Castle, which, he said, was inhabited by an old usurer, named *Avarice*, who sat starving amidst heaps of gold, and who, though in fact a friend to VICE, refused to acknowledge her under the form of PLEASURE, nor would ever come near the court of that jolly GODDESS.

“ His castle, you see, is situated in the
 “ centre of a deep wood, and defended
 “ with high walls and strong fortifications.
 “ That iron gate, which you descry by
 “ the assistance of the glass, is the only
 “ entrance. It is secured within by many
 “ strong bolts: without stand two sharp-
 “ eyed guards, with visages emaciated
 “ and keen, called *Hunger* and *Anxiety*,
 “ who suffer none to pass into the castle
 “ till they have manifested their affection
 “ to the master of it, by serving a suf-
 “ ficient time in an outer yard, where some
 “ are

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“are digging, some hewing stones, others
 “carrying on their shoulders heavy bur-
 “dens, and many filling large chests with
 “earth. It is remarkable,” added my in-
 structor, “that from the lowest cellar of
 “the house runs a long subterraneous pas-
 “sage, which communicates with *The*
 “*Cave of Poverty*.

At last desiring me to direct my regard
 to the right side of the hill, he showed
 me a country spacious and noble, but
 hilly and difficult of access. In it I saw
 fewer travellers than in the other, which
 I had just been viewing: yet they were
 more than at first appeared. At the far-
 ther end of it, on a beautiful eminence,
 I observed a temple magnificent but un-
 ostentatious. “That country,” said my
 Director, “is the Dominion of VIRTUE,
 “in which the inhabitants are inured to
 “labour, but reap the fruits of it in health
 “of body and tranquillity of mind. Those
 “asperities and precipices which you now
 “perceive, are chiefly in the entrance.
 “As you advance, it improves in smooth-
 “ness and delight. The Temple which
 “you

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“you descry is that of the GODDESS, where
 “she receives and rewards her faithful
 votaries, who enjoy, beyond the power of
 “chance and sorrow, what you are in pur-
 “suit of, HAPPINESS.” “Oh blessed vo-
 “taries!” cried I, with sudden rapture ;
 “oh glorious Temple! thither let us bend
 “our steps : I long to join that high as-
 “sembly : let us set out immediately.”
 My Guide approved of my ardour ; but,
 to prevent it from running into presump-
 tion, again foretold me I should meet
 with considerable difficulties in the road,
 on which I was about to enter ; and then,
 taking me by the hand, led me down the
 hill, ruminating on all I had just heard
 and seen.

We no sooner arrived at the foot of it,
 than I began to find the truth of his pre-
 dictions ; for we came to a road entan-
 gled with thickets, beset with thorns, per-
 plexed, abrupt, and craggy. By these
 inconveniencies, though I had been suffi-
 ciently forewarned of them, I was not a
 little discouraged ; so that, from a hasty
 impatience to be at the end of so disagree-
 able

able a journey, I hurried on before my Protector : but the faster I went, the more was I bewildered. The path indeed was so narrow, and my disposition so heedless, that I easily deviated into by-roads; an error to which I was additionally tempted on the approach of some persons of grave appearance, who told me they were going the same way, and were devoted to the GODDESS to whose Temple I was travelling.

The first I met wore a plain garb thrown carelessly about him, had a blunt manner, and a demure aspect somewhat inclining to the fullen, inveighed strongly against the manners of the country from which I came, spoke of the folly and knavery of mortals with much acrimony, and observed that many were professed, but few or none real friends to VIRTUE. He called himself *Honesty*, and bad me follow him, offering to conduct me the shortest way to her Temple. Impatient to reach it, and forgetting, in my haste, the wise and friendly Conductor, to whom I owed so much attention, I was weak enough to
accept

accept the offer of this pretender, but soon had reason to repent of my rashness; for, instead of extricating, he led me into a greater maze, and through worse thickets, than those I had already passed, where I was pierced and torn with the briars and brambles which grew on every side. This made me resolve to follow him no longer. His true name, I afterwards found, was *Cynical Sourness*.

On his leaving me, advanced another of a figure yet more homely. He was bare-footed, had a mortified visage with a matted beard which reached to his middle, and was clad in sackcloth, girt round with a rope. In one hand he held a maple dish, and in the other grasped a whip, with which he would now and then lash himself by way of penance. The name he assumed was *Temperance*, though I understood afterwards that he was only *Monkish Austerity*. His appearance was in many respects far enough from engaging; yet, as he professed the utmost simplicity of diet and manners, put on a sanctimonious look, and peremptorily asserted, that there

was

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was no other way to the Temple of VIRTUE but through his cell, I was, in the present disorder of my thoughts, induced to follow him: but the road he led me was so stony and rough, his discourse was so forbidding, and his deportment so fierce, that being greatly shocked I soon relinquished him.

The next who accosted me was a stately personage with a plausible countenance, and an air of grandeur, in which however appeared something starched and haughty. He gave me to know, that he was by profession a Philosopher; spoke much of his disinterested zeal, his unconfined benevolence, his inflexible probity, his perfect command over all his passions, his sovereign contempt both of pain and PLEASURE; and boldly affirmed, that none but he and his followers were acquainted with the road to the Temple of VIRTUE, that he was a bosom friend of the GODDESS, and commissioned by her to lead young travellers to her sacred abode. His name, he said, was *Stoicism*, though his enemies through spite often miscalled

miscalled him *Pride*. Imposed upon by an appellation so celebrated, and such lofty pretensions, I readily accepted his offer : but he conducted me sometimes through quagmires, where I was in danger of sticking fast ; sometimes over precipices, where I dreaded being dashed to pieces : and yet I could not discover that we gained any ground. At length, being disheartened and faint with following a leader so headstrong and dangerous, and sick of making so many unpleasant and unsuccessful experiments, I determined to adhere more closely to my old Guide, who had all this while kept behind at some distance, but had never lost sight of me. I was indeed ashamed to approach him : but seeing me now alone, and in confusion, he came up, and, on my confessing with humiliation my ingratitude and temerity in leaving him, he generously forgave me.

We had not proceeded far together, when I was accosted by some other persons, who were not without their several allurements, who all wore the livery of VIRTUE, and all pretended to be of her family.

family. My Protector however assured me, they were counterfeits. One of them endeavoured to pass for *Prudence*; but I found his proper name was *Cunning*, and that he was particularly to be known by his squint eyes, and short sight. Another called herself *Justice*; but I was informed *Severity* was her real name. A third gave herself out for *Good-nature*, but was in fact no other than *Weakness*. And one, properly called *Profusion*, took the name of *Liberality*.

My Guide, aware that, through my youth and inexperience, I might still be seduced by those or the like pretenders, conducted me through a lonely path, with which few were acquainted, to a green and mossy bower concealed from public view, at the entrance to which sat a reverend and elderly woman, of an appearance wonderfully sedate and recollected, who seemed to be the portress of this lowly dwelling. She knew my Instructor, and, smiling at sight of him, admitted us without speaking a word. He told me, she had been his nurse, and was styled *Solitude*.

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litute. Upon entering we observed a very lovely figure reclining on a verdant couch, planted round with jessamine and honeysuckle, which filled the place with perfume. She had an incomparable clearness and ingenuity of aspect: her countenance was open as Heaven: her eyes were bright as the evening star, and withal so penetrating that nothing could escape her notice. Her person appeared as if formed by the *Graces*, with inimitable proportion and perfect elegance. She wore an azure coloured robe, of such admirable texture, and at the same time so happily adjusted to her shape, as to display her charms in their full lustre. Her whole frame seemed to beam with glory. On beholding my Guide, her looks expressed a complacency that could be equalled only by her respect. Rising from her seat, and moving gently forward, she received us with a friendly joy. My venerable Companion, having informed her who I was, and whence I came, recommended me to her care, and told me I might safely travel onward to the Temple of VIRTUE under the direction

rection of so sure a Conductress, who was her favourite daughter, and whose name was TRUTH. I bowed my head ; he left us ; and we set forward on our journey.

Now and then certain phantoms, of an odd figure and fantastic dress, glided across our way. They would sometimes make up to me, and try by a variety of arts to entice me from TRUTH. These she informed me were partizans of PLEASURE, and sent by her to the frontiers of VIRTUE, on purpose to embarrass and decoy unguarded travellers. Some of their names, as I remember, were *Vain Glory*, *Popular Applause*, *False Shame*, *Derision*, *Detraction*, *Novelty*, *Fashion*. I felt some curiosity to enter into discourse with them : but my new Guide, holding up a mirror which she always carries about her, and which reflects the forms of things as they are, with it confronted the spectres ; whereupon some of them disappeared, unable to sustain its splendour, and others (oh surprising effect of the mirror !) shrunk into the most diminutive and despicable figures that can be conceived.

As

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As we travelled onward, having observed that TRUTH presented to me a crystal-line cup full of clear and sparkling fluid, I presumed to enquire what it was. It was, she informed me, a sovereign preparation, which, besides purifying the constitution in general, was particularly useful in clearing and strengthening the organs of vision. I had no sooner, by her advice, made trial of its efficacy, than, methought, a weakness and confusion in my eyes, of which I had for some time complained, was removed, and I discerned every object at a greater distance, and with more distinctness than before.

My Benefactress desired me to look back on the palace of PLEASURE, which lay in the valley below. But how was I surprised to find all its magnificence vanished, and to see itself suspended in the air, with a tumultuous motion that seemed to announce its fall; and the adjacent fields, formerly so fruitful and well watered in appearance, withered at once into a frightful waste! The boastful GODDESS was herself shriveled and transformed to a hag,
sitting

sitting in a darksome corner, pale and trembling, accompanied only by a few of her doleful attendants and votaries, who appeared like so many furies reproaching her and one another, and tearing themselves with anguish and remorse. I turned away disgusted at so loathsome a spectacle and besought my Guide to lead on.

As we advanced, we were met by one of a youthful form, and of extraordinary vigour. His complexion was of that kind which is contracted by toil. He had a steady look, not without some mixture of sternness, to which the rest of his make corresponded, being rough and hardy. He grasped in his hand a club, and walked with uncommon composure, and firmness. "This youth," said my Guardian, "is a near ally of my family, whom CON-
"TEMPLATION had by fair *Liberty*. He
"is called *Resolution*, and has a temper
"compounded of the characters of both
"parents; for in him the fire of the mo-
"ther is tempered by the coolness of the
"father." His presence gave me new spirit, so that I was disposed to press on
through

through the remaining difficulties of the way with an alacrity which I had not felt before.

I soon indeed found, that I should want it all ; for I observed at some distance a tremendous rock, which I understood I must necessarily climb. It grew not less formidable on a nearer approach ; and proved on my attempting it, so steep and slippery, that I fell back almost as fast as I ascended. There lodged too, as my Conductress informed me, in one of its cavities, a monstrous being, whom we must needs subdue before we could gain the summit. " But," said she, " be of good cheer, for Heaven will send to our relief a mightier power." She had scarcely spoken, when out rushed a most hideous form, of whom the very sight chilled me with horror. He had, indeed, the face of a man ; but it was more fierce and terrible than that of a lion. His eyes darted fire. Out of his nostrils issued a baleful steam, that poisoned the air ; and his roaring was like " the sound of many waters." He was armed with scales almost

most impenetrable by human weapons, and instead of hands was furnished with claws which tore whatever came within their reach. His name was *Self Will*.

He was attended by a figure of a pale and fallow visage, whose eyes were sunk deep in their sockets, and rolled about with wildness and wrath. Her tresses flew loose upon her shoulders, and she had in all her looks and gestures an air of distraction. In one hand she carried a string of beads, which she seemed to tell with great earnestness; and in the other a bloody scourge. At the same time she muttered an unintelligible jargon. By her girdle hung a key, with which, I was afterwards told, she pretended to admit into, or shut out from, the Temple of VIRTUE, and the Abode of HAPPINESS. I perceived that she fondly cherished the monstrous shape. Her name was *Bigotry*.

At the discovery of this shocking pair I was seized with double terrour: but *Resolution* instantly attacked the mis-shapen power with his mighty weapon, calling to

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me in the mean time not to be afraid ; yet I could not refrain from trembling for the event. My companion was indeed pressed so hard by his antagonist, that he must soon have fallen a prey to his fury, had not our Protectress, who remained awhile spectator of the unequal combat, brought to our aid a seasonable reinforcement. Oh the Godlike power that interposed !

There was in her whole appearance somewhat more divinely attractive than aught I had ever beheld : her forehead was polished like ivory, and radiant with splendour : her hair was like burnished gold : her eyes effused ineffable mildness mingled with modest triumph : her regards were chiefly fixed on the skies, to which they were raised with such sublime devotion as seemed to lift the spirit of the beholder thither. Her garment, which hung freely from her shoulders, and reached down to her feet, was white as the driven snow : her motions were at once awful and serene. She looked like an inhabitant of the Empyréan, sent down for the relief of feeble mortals. At sight of her, *Bigotry*, unable to support so much effulgence,

effulgence, turned her back, flunk away, and was seen no more. The name of this sweetly majestic Power, my Preceptress informed me, was RELIGION. In her hand she supported a box of the purest frankincense. Having thrown part of it on a little altar that stood by, it raised at first a cloud of smoke, which possessed such peculiar influence, as to terrify, beyond any thing else in nature, the monster *Self Will*; so that he fled away in consternation, uttering such cries as appeared to rend the vault of Heaven. The smoke was succeeded by a celestial odour, which soon dispersed every noxious vapour, and filled the air with a fragrance inexpressibly reviving.

The alarm I suffered, and the splendour of RELIGION, had hitherto withheld my attention from three blooming figures that accompanied her. They were her daughters, *Faith*, *Humility*, and *Hope*. The head of the first was invested with a circle of rays, which threw a chearing light on all around her: her eyes were chiefly turned towards her parent, who viewed her with

reciprocal and superior satisfaction: she carried before her a shield of divine workmanship, and seemed to lead the road to her sisters. *Humility*, cloathed in a vesture of sober hue, which trailed on the ground, walked with a down-cast look and slow step: her whole demeanour was diffident and lowly. *Hope* had in her hand an opening bud, fresh and fragrant as the morning rose: she heedfully marked the motions of her eldest sister, and wore in her countenance a pleasant tranquillity, which seemed a mixture of seriousness and chearfulness, bordering upon rapture.

As we proceeded we were joined by another companion, one of RELIGION's family, who I was informed would help me to surmount the remaining hardships of the way. He was an elderly personage, but appeared still fresh and vigorous: he was clad in a russet cloak, wore an air of meekness and contentment, and held in his hand a staff on which he sometimes leaned: he was provided with a box of ointment for dressing the wounds, and anointing the feet, of those travellers who had been hurt
by

by the asperities of the road. His name, my Instructress told me, was *Patience*. This exhilarating power going before lent me his hand, and by his assistance I with ease reached the top of the rock. I perceived indeed, after he joined us, that the path became more practicable and pleasing. We still ascended; but the ascent diminished: and among so many desirable and animating companions, I soon forgot my weariness. The sun, till now concealed in clouds, broke forth with new lustre, and illumined the fairest country he had ever beheld in his mighty circuit. Beauteous prospects opened on all sides. To the thorny wilds, and frightful precipices, we had passed, succeeded green meadows, and flowery lawns, and streams of living water.

The Temple, in full sight of which we were now arrived, stood on the point of the eminence. My Guide, perceiving me ravished with the view of its situation and structure, said, "That, my son, is the " Temple of VIRTUE, and the Abode of " HAPPINESS. From thence the monstrous " form, who so lately affrighted you, and

" his gloomy partner, are for ever excluded.
 " *Spleen* never spreads her sable wings there.
 " To that blissful place *Corroding Cares*, and
 " *Fearful Forebodings*, with those infernal
 " furies, bitter *Strife*, blind *Rage*, brutal
 " *Revenge*, *Jealousy* of jaundiced eye, fell
 " *Hate*, pining *Envy*, devouring *Appetite*,
 " and pale *Remorse*, must never approach.
 " Neither the indolent nor the busy adhe-
 " rents of PLEASURE can breathe so pure
 " an air. Her joyful dependants, who are
 " settled inhabitants, pass the hours in a
 " perpetual round of exercise without toil,
 " and of entertainment without satiety;
 " divided into different festal bands mutu-
 " ally loving and beloved, improving and
 " improved, without other contention, save
 " who shall pay the highest homage, and
 " render the most acceptable service, to
 " their common Sovereign, who is ever
 " sure to bestow her noblest boons on the
 " most active and deserving."

Mean while we drew near to the sacred
 mansion, which was built of a transparent
 stone that admitted light from every quar-
 ter: it was of a quadrangular form, and
 crowned

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crowned with a magnificent dome: its portal rested on a double row of pillars of the Doric order. At the entry were placed two guards, who carried in their looks something so severe, that many travellers recoiled at the sight of them: their names were *Temperance* and *Fortitude*. Though their first appearance was not inviting, it softened as soon as they observed our company. The gates stood wide open, in which situation I was told they always remain. Ascending by easy steps, we entered. I was transported with the beauty and nobleness of the place: the height and circumference of the dome filled and satisfied the eye: the taste of the whole fabric was simple and solemn. There was no need of adventitious decorations, and there were none.

At the upper end of the Temple, on a Throne of state, appeared the GODDESS: but how shall I describe her superior form? Her complexion was clear, healthful, and animated with a native glow more perfect than art can confer. Her features were regular, raised, and graceful, but not with-

out a masculine air. Her eyes were blue, beautiful, and piercing as light. In all her mien there was discoverable a happy mixture of the modest and the great. Not a single ornament about her person, but what was decent and natural. Her hair flowed down her neck in artless ringlets. A sprig of laurel was wreathed round her temples. She wore a robe of the purest purple, that was girt with a zone about her waist, from which it fell in ample and easy folds. She held in her hand an Imperial Sword, the emblem of Power and Authority. Before the Throne, which was of alabaster, were placed various ensigns of Dominion, a globe, crowns, scepters, batons, fasces, tables of laws, suits of armour, instruments of war, trophies, and the several symbols of the *Finer Arts*.

The presence of the GODDESS overwhelmed me with veneration and extacy. I stood for some time immoveable, as if absorbed in sublime ideas. When I was a little recovered from a state which mortality cannot long support, my Protectress, pointing to the Throne, said, "There sits
" the Divinity of the place; the daughter
" of

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“ of those immortal Powers, *Wisdom* and
 “ *Love*. She was brought forth at a birth
 “ with HAPPINESS, her sister, and her com-
 “ panion; and sent down from above as
 “ the best friend of men, and the surest di-
 “ rectress of life; the guardian of youth,
 “ the glory of manhood, and the comforter
 “ of old age. By her instructions and laws,
 “ human society is formed and maintained;
 “ and human nature, by converse with her,
 “ becomes Godlike.”

My Conductress then called off my view
 to the numerous attendants of VIRTUE.
 On either side of the Throne, as its sup-
 porters, stood two illustrious personages,
 whose names were *Prudence* and *Justice*,
 with their well-known symbols. Their
 votaries, as they approached, were intro-
 duced to the Presence by a young virgin
 of the most lovely appearance, who could
 not perform her task without blushing.
 Her name was *Modesty*. On the right hand
 of the GODDESS stood *Domestic Tenderness*,
Chastity with a veil, meek-eyed *Charity*,
 sacred *Friendship*, and *Heroic Indignation* of
 a stern aspect and awful mien, grasping

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the Imperial Sword which VIRTUE reached out to him, and leading up *Public Zeal*, *Magnanimity*, and *Honour*, persons of a fearless countenance and noble deportment, several more whose names I do not now recollect. On her left hand were placed, among others, *Honesty* in her transparent vest; *Sincerity*, of an ingenuous face; *Resignation*, leaning on a column, and looking to Heaven; *Clemency*, holding an olive branch; and *Hospitality*, of a liberal and open manner, joining hands with *Politeness*. Behind the Throne might be seen unruffled *Serenity*; smiling *Cheerfulness*; ever-blooming *Joy*, with a garland of flowers in her hand; and the *Graces* encircled in each other's arms. There too stood ranged *Industry* of a hale and active appearance, and *Peace* crowned with laurel, supporting a cornucopia between them; *Credit* linked hand in hand with *Commerce*; and both introduced by *Civil Liberty* with her proper types. In VIRTUE's train, I likewise beheld *Rhetoric*, of a bold enthusiastic air; *Poetry*, with her lyre and her look of rapture; *Philosophy*, with her speculum;
History,

History, with her pen; *Sculpture*, *Painting*, and the rest of the Sciences and Arts, distinguished by their respective attributes. The presence of the GODDESS seemed to inspire the whole august and amiable band, and added a fresh lustre to their beauty.

The area of the Temple was filled with a glorious "multitude, which no man "could number," collected out of all tribes and nations, who lived in holy union, and conversed together with perfect esteem and confidence. Stationed near the Throne, was a distinguished company, on whom the GODDESS smiled with correspondent satisfaction. My Guide informed me they were a set of illustrious Worthies, who had approved themselves patterns of every excellence, the promoters of TRUTH, the defenders of *Liberty*, the benefactors of mankind, the very lights of the world.

This radiant assembly joined in offering up their several gifts, which were not so remarkable for their splendour and riches, as they were ennobled and consecrated by the purity of the offerers. The minutest oblations

oblations were acceptable from a willing mind; and the undissembled homage of such persons as had nothing else to present, was received by the Divinity of the place with a countenance no less propitious, than she vouchsafed to her most munificent worshippers.

I had almost omitted to mention, that near the Throne stood a nymph of an alluring and enraptured aspect, whose name was *Harmony*. She bore between her hands a golden harp, and seemed only to wait for a signal to strike it. Silence being proclaimed through the Assembly, after they had paid their homage, the GODDESS beckoned to the graceful nymph; on which she kindled into higher transport, swept the well tuned strings, and played such airs as soothed the hearers into attentive wonder, and celestial ravishment. "The harp of *Orpheus* was not more charming."

When the music ceased, the happy multitude crowded round the Presence, and without strife or noise placed themselves in that situation, where they might
best

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best be seen by the observing Deity. Such as were but just arrived, and had not yet been honoured with an audience, now approached the Throne, led up by *Modesty*. The GODDESS commanded her *Recorder*, who sat on a bench below her, to read their respective stories. His eyes were piercing as the eagle's, when he gazes on the noon-day sun, and his voice solemn as that of distant thunders. His name was CONSCIENCE. Before him was spread an immense volume, in which were registered the actions of men, as well the most disguised and secret as the most open and avowed: nor did any ever contradict the testimony of CONSCIENCE, without being self-condemned.

The first person whom the bashful usher introduced was a comely Old woman of an appearance singularly decent. Purity and sweetness were so tempered in her, as to create at once respect and confidence, while they beamed out in an eminent degree through all her looks and demeanour. When presented to the GODDESS, the paleness of age could not conceal a candid blush, which over-spread her cheeks, as the *Re-*
recorder

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corder read aloud the following encomium: That her earliest youth was distinguished by an affectionate piety to GOD, and to her parents, accompanied with a sobriety of mind, and sedateness of manners, uncommon at that period of life: That, being married very young to an elderly gentleman of good fortune and great worth, but of a temper something warm, she had improved his circumstances by her prudent management, and calmed his passions by a superior mildness and marvellous discretion: That she had brought up a numerous family with the most tender care, and studied by her instructions and example to inspire them with an early attachment to RELIGION and VIRTUE: That, by a winning conversation, and well-conducted indulgence, she had engaged them to love her as their friend, no less than to reverence her as their parent: That after her husband's death, which happened when far the greater part of them were young, she had watched over their interests with unwearied attention, given them one after another a liberal education, and settled them

them in useful and honourable stations: That such of them as were now at a distance from her, she continued regularly to counsel, and to confirm in the principles of their education, by an epistolary correspondence, in which she wrote her beautiful feelings with a simplicity and a dignity seldom equalled: In fine, that she was venerated by her servants, beloved by her friends, blessed by the poor to whom she was indeed a mother, and applauded, without one dissenting voice, by all that knew her unaffected goodness.

On hearing this ample attestation, VIRTUE beheld her with particular regard, and said, "Most honoured woman! thou
 "hast been happy in thy parents, in thy
 "husband, in thy family; and happy shalt
 "thou long continue in the consciousness of
 "a life spent like thine, and in the highest
 "pleasure that can reach a parent's soul,
 "that of seeing her offspring prosperous
 "and esteemed. Having reaped this natural recompence in the present world,
 "thy labour of love shall not be forgotten
 "in the future, to which thou shalt be gathered

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“thered in a good old age, full of consolation, and ripe for immortality.”

Having said this, she ordered *Peace*, *Prudence*, *Charity*, *Conjugal Love*, and *Domestic Tenderness*, to weave a garland of myrtle and olive, and crown her with it, in the presence of her female ministers; and then commanded them to conduct her into the Abode of HAPPINESS, who dwelt in apartments under the same roof with the Temple.

The next that appeared was a Young woman, in the bloom of youth and beauty. She was clad in mourning: there was something in her attire unadorned and careless, to which a languishing and down-cast air, that appeared about her, admirably corresponded. Her eyes were fixed on the ground, whilst the *Recorder* gave her this remarkable testimony: That having a very aged and most deserving parent, with two young brothers, left to her charge by the death of her mother, she had by her constant care and vigilance cherished the former and educated the latter, and by many works of ingenuity procured a tolerable subsistence for both: That, to perform this laborious

laborious task more completely, she had declined the most tempting offers of marriage for herself; being resolved never to transfer upon a husband the burden which Providence had laid upon her: That having at last closed her father's eyes, and seen her brothers happily provided for by a public foundation, the managers of which had been made acquainted with her meritorious behaviour, it was now her chief employment to excite in them an ambition of imitating their parent's excellence, so as to embalm and preserve his memory in the honourable reputation of his children.

Such uncommon self-denial and filial piety, in a person so young and so handsome, drew upon her the admiring eyes of the whole Assembly; which producing a virtuous confusion, heightened her native attractions. The GODDESS looked upon her with tenderness, and said, "Lovely daughter! thy gentle qualities and generous exertions shall gain thee fairer honours, than the more splendid achievements of those who have been accounted heroines; and thy name shall be held up
" to

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“to future ages, as a pattern of duty and
 “affection. Thy children (for thou shalt
 “yet bring a beautiful offspring to a man
 “of worth) shall repay thee tenfold, and
 “copy with success those perfections which
 “thou hast so usefully and amiably dis-
 “played.”

VIRTUE then presented her with a mystic girdle, which was woven by the *Graces*, and endowed with such efficacy as to confer upon the wearer the power of charming every beholder. She received it blushing, and withdrew.

After her, was introduced a man about middle age. There was, in his eyes, a fire that indicated passions naturally strong; yet he approached the Throne with a look of diffidence and concern. The *Recorder* represented, That this votary was formerly proud and overbearing, prone to voluptuousness, and impetuous in his schemes to gratify it: That his wealth and rank, together with an early indulgence of those propensities, had contributed not a little to augment their violence: That conceiving a fondness for a young lady of distinguish-
 ed

ed birth and beauty, joined to many estimable qualities, but whose fortune was ruined by a train of unpropitious events, he hoped her situation might make her an easy prey to his designs, as he could not be confined by marriage, and had always entertained that gross opinion of women in general which is common among loose men: That, after employing every seducing art, he found her equally unmoved by allurements and by terrours: That being at length, by the inviolable sanctity of her manners, subdued into just admiration and virtuous love, he desisted from his infamous attempts, and, after convincing her with some difficulty of his sincere repentance, raised her from indigence and obscurity to a station of affluence and honour, in which her hitherto concealed accomplishments broke forth with splendour: That her incomparable deportment so softened and moulded his temper, as entirely to reform it, and render him unassuming, mild, and moderate, a friend of VIRTUE, and a guardian of the sex.

He

He was desired to bring forward his benefactress. With ardent haste he singled from the throng the loveliest creature the sun ever shone upon, who, thus unexpectedly presented to public view, appeared with additional lustre from the reddening of conscious worth, that glowed in her countenance. On which, eagerly pressing her hand, he said, "This, awful GODDESS! " this is the matchless woman who converted me to reason and humanity. I have " done nothing to merit your notice: only " bestow upon my beloved companion some " recompence proportioned to her deserts." He turned to her with unutterable admiration. Her regards were fixed upon the ground; and she observed a modest silence, more expressive than the liveliest eloquence.

VIRTUE from her throne surveyed them both with singular satisfaction, and ordered *Hymen* to bring forth from her treasury two garlands of ivy, which she herself wreathed, about their heads, while she thus addressed them. "Blessed pair! I crown you with " these as memorials of my complacence, " and of the conquests that each of you " has

“ has gained. Remain eternal monuments
 “ of the joys that spring from a chaste
 “ and rational affection; and witness to
 “ a degenerate age, how far these en-
 “ dearmments of the heart surpass the warmest
 “ transports of lawless passion.”

She then commanded *Chastity*, *Meekness*,
Fidelity, and *Chearfulness*, in company with
 the *Graces*, to conduct them into the hyme-
 neal chamber near the altar.

Next in order came a grave matron-like
 lady on the decline of life : but no wrinkles
 had yet deformed her face ; and by many
 agreeable traces, which she still retained,
 I could perceive she had once stood in the
 foremost rank of beauty. Her looks be-
 spoke a mixture of sentiment and simpli-
 city ; and her air was of that kind which
 is at once elevated and engaging. It ap-
 peared, That having been heiress to an
 ample fortune, and possessed of many ad-
 vantages both of mind and person, she had
 nevertheless maintained such a moderation
 of spirit as gave real dignity to the first,
 and added new allurements to the latter :
 That, though her train was soon swelled
 with

with a croud of admirers, some of whom were of the first distinction, and addressed her in due form, she had never been vain of past, nor ambitious of future conquests: That she had made use of her affluence, and other advantages, only to relieve the poor, to patronize the deserving, and protect the modest against “the oppressor’s” wrongs, the proud man’s contumely, and “the insolence of office:” That having rejected the baits of grandeur offered her by her interested suitors, who considered marriage merely as a bargain, and those of gallantry presented her by gay ones, who regarded it as the last refuge of a ruined estate, she had made choice of a plain man, without rank, youth, or beauty, and of a very moderate income, but of admirable sense and uncommon worth; with whom she removed into the country, preferring his company, and that of a few select friends, amidst the still delights of retirement, to the tumultuous diversions of the town, and the tiresome parade of a court.

The GODDESS, with an aspect of high approbation, thus confirmed so honourable

able

able a testimony: "Exalted creature! I
 "have long beheld with more than ordi-
 "nary esteem thy discreet reserve, thy
 "equanimity, and generous use of power
 "and opulence. These have found their
 "just reward in one of the best men. Be
 "thou a lasting model to thy sex, of un-
 "ambitious, but noble conduct: teach
 "them to sacrifice the transient glare of
 "wealth, and hollow pageantry of great-
 "ness, to the solid and unfading sweets of
 "friendship, freedom, and self enjoyment."

Then VIRTUE taking from her own hand a ring of inestimable value, on which were cyphered the names of *Wisdom* and *Love*, put it upon the finger of the votarefs. She was afterwards conducted, by three attendants of the GODDESS, *Generosity*, *Decency*, and *Joy*, to her husband, who, from a corner of the Temple, had witnessed with rapture the honours paid to the admired author and partner of his happiness.

The succeeding votary appeared to be a man past the boisterous season of youth, but not yet fully arrived at his prime. He had a masculine and animated look, mixed
 with

with something thoughtful; which seemed to intimate, that he had endured considerable hardships, but spoke at the same time a mind unbroken and superior. Of him it was recorded, That, though born to a plentiful estate, he had found it much impaired by the extravagance of his father, and the injustice of his guardians: That the remainder he had employed in giving himself a liberal education: That he had wisely appeased, or resolutely supported, some strong animosities which he had incurred without deserving them: That he had with invincible temper sustained the assaults of calumny: That having at last, with sagacity and spirit, extricated himself from a train of difficulties; and having by unwearied application acquired an opulent fortune; while by persevering probity joined to fine parts he converted censure into applause, he betrayed no elation of mind, but continued uncorrupted by prosperity, as he had been unconquered by affliction: That he had availed himself of his new-acquired riches, in supplying the wants of those very relations who had used
him

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him worst, in maintaining some of them who were disabled by age or infirmities, and settling others in the world: That his hand was ever open to indigent merit, his house a sanctuary to injured innocence, his advice and assistance free to all, and his company courted equally by the old and the young, of whom he was particularly solicitous to inspire the last with a sense of *Honour* and the love of VIRTUE.

The GODDESS, delighted with this relation of so extraordinary a personage, commanded two of her attendants, *Magnanimity* and *Liberality*, to crown him with a wreath of laurel, as if he had been a conqueror just returned from the field of battle. Then, with a voice melodious as the songs of Elysium, she thus addressed him: “ Shine
“ on, thou generous youth! shine on inva-
“ riably, with the splendour of a superla-
“ tive humanity. Instruct mankind by
“ thy persuasive conversation; charm them
“ with thy great example: make the un-
“ thinking, the vicious, and the vain,
“ ashamed: teach even the most savage
“ minds to revere that exalted form of

D

“ goodness

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“goodness which they can never rise to
“imitate.”

Struck with this solemn attestation of VIRTUE herself, the hero, with an amiable bashfulness, retired behind the Throne, and disappeared amongst the admiring croud.

The next votarist introduced was a person far advanced in years, whose reverend visage betokened a certain sacred simplicity of character. His demeanour was perfectly plain, and his appearance altogether primitive and artless. He approached the Throne slowly. On his right hand stepped RELIGION; on his left, *Philosophy*: *Humility* walked behind him. Of him it was told, that he was one of VIRTUE's priests, who had served at her altar with a zeal as pure as the fire which burnt upon it, and withal as mild as the oil which fed the holy flame: Every hour that could be spared from an immediate attendance on his function, he had employed in exercises of a rational piety, or in offices of an unlimited benevolence, or in studies devoted to the purposes of both: Having received
from

from Nature a marvellous perspicacity in experimental researches, he had, with a diligence and success till then unknown, applied it to penetrate her works: He explored accordingly many of her secrets, especially those relating to the vegetable and animal machinery: By drawing aside the veil which had hitherto enveloped them, he disclosed such miracles of power, intelligence, and goodness, as struck each attentive spectator into devout astonishment: By these discoveries, he had not only advanced the glory of the great Artificer; he had contributed to the benefit of man, in pointing out their important uses, for the preservation, comfort, or improvement of life. He had subdued the very elements to the service of his species, even there where they had been most refractory and noxious: The air and water he had purified and sweetened by those admirable arts for which multitudes of human beings in every age would "rise up and call him blessed." He had in some sense restored breath to thousands of his fellow creatures: The same of his incomparable ingenuity and

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worth, having induced an illustrious personage to force him by a sort of friendly violence to the court, he had remained, amidst the glitter of a palace, the same contemplative and elevated spirit that he had ever been found in the shade of retirement; retreating thither, as often as he could; and when he could not, walking through the circles of grandeur and gaiety with an undesigning heart and unaffected manners; breathing an air of sanctity like the inhabitant of some superior region, and, as by beams brought down from above, kindling in those about him the love of RELIGION, *Temperance*, and *Wisdom*.

VIRTUE smiled upon the saint with affection and delight, which, when the *Recorder* had ended, she thus expressed:
 “ Happy old man! let me, in the presence
 “ of this assembly, congratulate thee on thy
 “ singular felicity. Happy in thy genius,
 “ in thy disposition, and in thy royal Mi-
 “ stress! Thrice happy in the power of dif-
 “ fusing health and refreshment through
 “ the abodes of sickness and dejection, in
 “ the praise of saving the lives of millions
 “ yet

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“ yet unborn, in the glorious privilege of
 “ leading immortal minds to adore, with
 “ an enlightened devotion, the Author of
 “ this universe! Let the joyful recollection
 “ support thy drooping age; let the honours
 “ paid thee by the best and greatest of
 “ mankind exhilarate thy spirits; and let
 “ those pleasures of divine philosophy,
 “ which thou art so eminently qualified to
 “ relish, anticipate the transport thou shalt
 “ shortly derive from the ever-new disco-
 “ veries, and the ever-rising contempla-
 “ tions, of eternity.”

The GODDESS then ordered *Sculpture* to
 erect for the admirable man a statue of the
 finest marble, with the figure of a Venti-
 lator on the pedestal, and this inscription,
 TO THE GOOD DOCTOR HALES, SECRE-
 TARY OF NATURE.

After him came forward another votary,
 past the prime of life. His eagle look gave
 indications of a daring spirit, and a com-
 manding genius, formed for planning the
 grandest schemes, and sustaining the most
 arduous struggles. The result was a cer-
 tain air of just and noble authority, that

seemed capable alike of impressing awe upon subordinate minds, and striking dishonest hearts with terrour. He approached the Throne with a dignified port, holding in his hand an expanded volume. He eyed it and the GODDESS by turns, while this extraordinary account of him was read aloud: That, inflamed with a fervent love of *Liberty*, and penetrated with solicitude for his Country, he had early devoted himself to their interests: That the season of youth, so frequently disgraced by debauchery or lost in trifles, he had diligently employed in the study of history, politics, oratory, and polite letters, with a view to prepare him for the part he might afterwards fill in the councils of the nation: That, being soon called to this high trust by the unbought election of his countrymen, he approved himself an intrepid patriot, as well as a profound statesman, and a speaker of irresistible energy; neither cringing to the haughty pageants of power, nor courting the favour of the giddy populace: That scorning a bribe himself, by whatever name disguised, he had constantly

inveighed,

inveighed, with a conscious boldness which dreaded no reprisals, against the venal herd of every class, but chiefly against those pretenders to patriotism, who after decrying venality in others, had themselves bartered independence, freedom and fair renown, for filthy lucre, or some tinsel ornament of dear-bought greatness.* That the reputation he had gained for inflexible integrity and transcendent abilities, having raised him to the most beneficial department in the administration, he had, by his unequalled moderation, generously renouncing large emoluments which he might have received without reproach, displayed a glorious superiority to wealth: That, as he had discharged the important duties of the place, with an attention which none ever questioned; so he had proved that he accepted it on conditions which none could condemn, by

* The lovers of Virtue and Patriotism, who may chance to look at this character, will regret that aught should have happened to render it less like the original than it appeared many years ago, when the *Dream* was first published.

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quitting it with dignity, when he might not hold it with honour: That whilst he yet held it, he scrupled not to level the thunders of his more than modern eloquence against those unhappy measures, and that unbounded prodigality of public treasure, by which he foresaw its wicked or infatuated managers would expose their country to disgrace and ruin: That he had often proposed and warmly pleaded in behalf of salutary laws, and wise regulations, for stopping the progress of *Corruption*, for purifying the British constitution, and for securing the independency of parliament: That this course of service had been a course of suffering; he, like all the greatest men who had gone before him in the same illustrious track, having been hated and persecuted by the corrupters and the corrupted, reproached by those he could not reclaim, relinquished by those he could not promote, and his contempt of riches represented as artifice, or ridiculed as quixotism: That nevertheless, unterrified, and undiverted from the purpose of his soul, he

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he had continued a courageous champion for *Liberty*, and a zealous votary of VIRTUE.

This high encomium being ended, the GODDESS desired him to make known his request before the whole assembly; on which he thus addressed her: "Great Sovereign! Weakened by disease, and worn with fatigue, I come to ask an abatement of my toils, hitherto, alas! but little efficacious; and permission to resign into your hands this volume of laws, which the profligacy of the times would not receive; since you alone can accomplish, what your few friends have attempted without success. Send forth through the land your powerful influence, to restore the soul of ancient freedom, to rectify the taste and elevate the sentiments of a sinking age, and transfuse through every rank a predominant regard for TRUTH, RELIGION, and the Commonweal. Support, mighty GODDESS, the majesty of the laws, the glory of the King, and the reputation of Britain; animate her sons with Roman cou-

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“ rage to defend their country; possess
 “ them with a holy zeal to assert thy cause,
 “ and reinstate thee in thy primeval splen-
 “ dour: extinguish in their breasts the
 “ enfeebling love of PLEASURE, thy igno-
 “ ble rival: fire them with a just disdain
 “ of *Avarice* and *Mean Ambition*: teach
 “ them to despise the cowardice of doing
 “ wrong, to spurn the hire of oppression,
 “ and to abhor the wages of iniquity.
 “ Let the Muses, and all the Liberal Arts,
 “ be made subservient to morality, and
 “ decency of manners: and O thou guar-
 “ dian and friend of human kind! inspire
 “ all institutions of authority to join their
 “ efforts in favour of their native land;
 “ till under thy direction the constitution
 “ be thoroughly refined, *Liberty* and power
 “ attain an equal poize, and Britain be-
 “ come, by wholesome discipline and pru-
 “ dent laws, incorruptible at home, as
 “ well as, by a bold exertion of her hid-
 “ den strength, be restored to her former
 “ character abroad, and rendered once
 “ more the mistress of the seas, the envy
 “ of

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“ of the nations, and the dread of tyrants.”

The GODDESS heard him with deep attention, and, with a look and accent expressive of peculiar satisfaction, replied, “ Heroic man! Expect from Providence “ and me the rewards due to your exalted “ merit. Know, in the mean while, that “ your Country turns her imploring eye “ on you, and asks from your interposition “ her long-wished deliverance and restoration. With you alone she is determined to entrust her treasure ; and she “ calls on you to direct its application, “ and save it from waste by dismissing “ her fraudulent and her useless servants, “ and introducing among the rest methods “ of frugality ; to promote the reformation of her sons ; to repell the encroachments, and countermine the policy, of “ her foreign foes ; to point her vengeance against her bosom traitors, and support under the cares of government a “ brave and honest Prince. It is an awful “ charge ; but shrink not from it. Take “ back the sacred volume. Your unabating

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“ bating perseverance shall be crowned
“ with never-fading honours, and, what
“ you will esteem yet more desirable, with
“ eminent success. The cause you have
“ espoused is immortal; it is the cause of
“ VIRTUE.”

The GODDESS, then descending some steps from her Throne, presented her hand to this singular personage, and commanded him to sit down by her side: after which, having employed *Justice* to bring from her stores a golden signet with this inscription, TO THE REAL PATRIOT, she delivered it into his hands, that he might wear it ever after. At a retribution so righteous and uncommon the whole Temple resounded with acclamations.

Silence was again proclaimed, when another votary advanced, whose presence I could perceive to produce in the beholders a mixture of reverence and love. I was surprised at the freshness and beauty of his looks, when told of his declining age. I ascribed it in part to the temper of his mind, which I understood was the sweetest that could be conceived. Indeed

deed his very countenance declared it; for That was lighted up by candour, and benignity. The "meek and quiet spirit" of a little child discovered itself in every feature of this amiable man. At the same time there shone about him a sanctitude of air, which seemed to be the joint emanation of *Purity* and *Wisdom*. His person was tall and graceful. A robe of white lawn, that reached down to his feet, presented the emblem of *Peace* and *Innocence*. His gait was at once composed and courteous. We were informed that this was another of VIRTUE's priests, who made the fewest pretensions, but had the fairest title to her favour. His bosom was touched by her gentlest inspirations; his life had been one entire offering to Her. He had never done an unjust action, never an unkind one. But a negative goodness could not content his generous soul: he aimed from the beginning at something more divine; he aspired to the sublimity of Christian perfection. Through the successive degrees of his order, he ascended by the strength of merit solely, till by the con-

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tinued and growing friendship of his sovereign, responsive to the public voice, he arrived at the summit of sacerdotal preferment in his country. There he sat with the mild dignity of unpretending excellence; for, as he had attained this height without ambition, he possessed it without pride. He deemed it indeed, on account of the numerous and difficult duties it demanded, a painful preeminence, and only for the satisfaction of discharging them, desirable. His large revenue, and large power, he faithfully employed for the interests of VIRTUE and those of her lovely attendant RELIGION, which he still regarded as inseparably conjoined: their common cause he had ever pleaded with an oratory which all admired, and few could equal. His auditors listened with awful recollection, and caught the vital spirit that issued from his lips: they believed those strains in commendation of Holiness to be genuine, which streamed so naturally from a feeling and abundant heart. His elocution easy, yet strong and beautiful, his manner simple, yet expressive

five

five and noble, rendered him a valuable model in the preaching art; an art which he never prostituted to palliate the vices of the great, or humour the passions of the vulgar, to promote the designs of a party, or kindle the destructive flame of theological debate. No one ever knew better to reconcile *Politeness* with *Sincerity*, affability with grandeur, the warmest attachment to TRUTH with the justest regard for *Toleration*. When the king and the nation were in danger, his magnanimous behaviour discovered that *Loyalty*, *Resolution*, and *Public Zeal*, conspired to animate his bosom: but *Peace* was his darling object, as became a servant of the PRINCE OF PEACE; and *Moderation* was his constant companion. These placid dispositions he had on every proper occasion recommended to all; to those especially of his own profession: the poorest and the lowest of the latter he, though raised so far above them, never failed to regard as his brethren while their behaviour was becoming and modest; for indecency or petulance, in a preacher of *Humility* and
 Righ-

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Righteousness, excited his particular abhorrence. He was a father to the church: the sons of the clergy he cherished as his sons. But kindness in him was not circumscribed to persons of his own persuasion; its rays, like those of the sun, were expanded through the general orbit of humanity. His religious sentiments might be said to resemble the same glorious luminary: they were all benign and bright, unconfined by local prejudices, and impartial as that eye of Nature. Good without ostentation, and friendly without pretence, his promises were few, his services many. He was beloved by worthy men of all denominations: he was revered even by the worthless, whom he compassionately admonished, not reproached, unless they added malignity or insolence to their other crimes; and then, in imitation of his divine Master, he treated them with a mixture of pity and indignation: he was hated by none but bigots, whom he forgave always, and served when he could. A friend to the followers of VIRTUE, a benefactor to the children

children of misery, his inexhaustible benevolence, like some perennial spring, perpetually flowed to both; to those most, who most deserved and wanted it. Here the *Recorder* made a short pause, looked at the venerable man, and then added with warmth, "I attest DOCTOR HERRING
"to have been a faithful minister of
"VIRTUE, and of JESUS!"

The GODDESS smiled assent, and thus addressed him: "My friend and advocate!
"I thank you for supporting my cause so
"nobly. I am at a loss to pronounce
"which has been most persuasive, your
"eloquence, or your example. How
"happy for mankind, were all of your
"order to imitate both! Henceforth take
"your station at the gate of my Temple,
"and conduct my purer worshippers to
"the inmost sanctuary, where PERFEC-
"TION and HAPPINESS sit enthroned,
"and are encircled in each other's arms
"for ever."

This said, she ordained him to be crowned with a golden mitre, on the fore part of which was a heart embossed with diamonds,

diamonds, whence proceeded a lambent flame, signifying in the symbolical language, 'That the Wearer was eminent for a soul consecrated to *Purity* and *Love*.'

This excellent man was succeeded by a Lady of superior extraction and singular desert. She was introduced by *Modesty*, whose humble maxims she had never transgressed. On her right hand walked the Muse *Erato*, to denote her affectionate disposition; and on her left, *Melpomene*, to mark her skill in music. Her train was supported by a youth whose name was *Good Humour*, and whose aspect bespoke a mind inspired by vivacity, and brightened into gladness. Her stature was not of that lofty kind, which is particularly adapted to command respect; but in her countenance graciousness was seated, and her smiles were the genuine expression of benevolence. She moved with a majesty softened by ease. Her appearance altogether created in the beholders a pleasing interest, which was heightened

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ened into admiration, when they heard her story.

Born a Princess in a foreign court, not remarkable for its magnificence, she had early enlivened it by her gaiety of heart, as she always adorned it by the decency of her manners. These, united with a considerable share of elegant accomplishments, and a peculiar benignity of nature, had held her up as an object worthy the regards of a Prince, whose youth and elevation, placed as he was the head of a great people, and surrounded with all that could flatter his passions, had not power to seduce him from the desire of attaching his heart to the votarefs of VIRTUE, and seeking his satisfaction in domestic joys. The report of her excellence, having reached his ear, had fixed his choice. Although, when she was first seen by the nation upon whose protection she had thrown herself, where imagination had expected to find her no less beautiful than worthy, their fond hopes seemed but little gratified in her personal figure, she had yet, by a demeanour irresistably sweet

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as well as uniformly prudent, gained every hour on the esteem of all that approached her; till at last she stole upon their hearts, and became the most universally beloved character in the kingdom: nor had her popularity been ever, in a long series of years, forfeited with any party, shaken by any faction, or undermined by any political cabal. Those, who differed from each other most widely on all other subjects, warmly agreed in admiring her gentle qualities and captivating deportment; which no height of station, no blaze of splendour, and no breath of applause, had at any time been able to alter or abate.

In her family, she had always shone with the same soft lustre. By her cheerful conversation, her spritely humour, her enchanting meekness, the never-ceasing attentions of duty and obedience, and the unwearied exertions of maternal fondness, had invariably secured for her, in the bosom of her royal Partner, a throne ten thousand fold more desirable than any which *Ambition* can boast, while
they

they served to sooth that bosom, amidst the multiplied perplexities inseparable from the government of a wide-extended and much-divided empire. Blessed with a numerous and flourishing offspring, this admirable woman, far from devolving them wholly on the care of strangers, like many a fashionable mother of greatly inferior condition, deemed it her glory to tend their health, to watch their safety, to study their opening minds, and by possessing them with a timely reverence for TRUTH, RELIGION, and VIRTUE, to prevent the contagion of a court, and lay the surest basis of every amiable and princely qualification, such as might render them in future years the increasing delight of their parents, the darlings of Britain, and the ornaments of humanity.

The uncommon complacence which this account produced in the GODDESS, her Attendants and the whole Assembly, was strongly apparent; it kindled every eye into rapture. "Thou best of wives, of
 "mothers, and of queens!" said VIRTUE in the warmest accents of approbation,

tion, "thou bright model of various excellence! how shall I assign thee an adequate reward?" She paused, as if to consider by what means she might most significantly manifest her favour. She looked round her, and proceeded, "My worshippers and followers will surely rejoice, on this blissful occasion, to contemplate the Progeny of so beloved a lady; as her conscious soul must be ravished to behold them the objects of universal tenderness and joyful zeal." She then ordered them to be ushered in. The glorious multitude of spectators seemed all suspended, and panting with curiosity; when no fewer than ten alluring children, whose ages appeared to succeed each other in a regular gradation, entered the place according to their years, led on by *Innocence*, a youthful Power, in whose blooming looks Sweetness and Simplicity were seen to sport, and who had conducted her smiling charge to the Temple, by a short and flowery path unknown to older travellers. I remarked, indeed, that the youngest of them, being yet but a babe,

was

was carried in the arms of *Hope*. *Wisdom* followed them as their guard. But words would feebly speak the generous transports, that glowed through the mighty throng, while so extraordinary a procession was passing in review. As the amiable train moved along, nameless little *Loves*, beautiful as cherubim, hovered about them, strewing their way with roses and lilies. The pensive and awful visage of their Guard expanded into a serene triumph. When they had measured the area of the Temple, she ranged them on either hand of their enraptured parent, whose emotions at that moment can only be imagined. At that moment she seemed to feel the endeavours of her life divinely recompensed. But VIRTUE, willing to confer a permanent token of the kindness she had long entertained for so distinguished a votarefs, commanded *Fame* to produce a Medal of transcendant beauty, which *Sculpture* had some time before struck by her order. It exhibited on one side a striking resemblance of that incomparable Princess, crowned with a wreath

wreath which was composed of the peaceful olive and the fruitful vine. Round the border was this inscription, *DELICIAE POPULI*. On the reverse might be seen the figure of *Concord* presenting the royal Issue to *The Genius of Britain*, who seated on a rock receives with tender exultation the future supporters of his empire, while rays of light fall upon them from above. Delivering it to the lady with a most gracious smile, the GODDESS thus addressed her : “ Accept, my sister and
 “ my friend, for such I esteem thee,
 “ accept this small memorial of my fervent attachment to thee, and to thy
 “ family. Be assured I participate deeply
 “ in their felicity and thine. It is the
 “ just retribution of Heaven to merit on
 “ thy part alike exalted and unassuming,
 “ and shall continue to follow that conjugal fidelity of which so few royal
 “ Pairs have, in the long succession of
 “ generations, been known to furnish an
 “ equal example.” Descending from the Throne, and embracing her, she added,
 “ And

“ And now, my friend and my sister,
 “ take possession of yonder adjoining Abode
 “ of HAPPINESS, which opens to receive
 “ thee and thy children. Thither let them
 “ attend thee. A lovelier retinue thou canst
 “ not have ; and another were superfluous.”

As this illustrious Person, and her lovely offspring, passed slowly from the Presence, the Nymph HARMONY, who with enthusiastic ardour had witnessed every part of the transaction, upon receiving a signal from the GODDESS, struck her golden lyre with extacy ; and sung such strains in praise of Moderation, Meekness, Conjugal Duty, and Domestic Peace, as emulated the Musick of the Spheres, and gave new sublimity to the sensations of the listening and entranced Assembly.*

When the melody was closed, MODESTY, assuming a degree of confidence which she had never before been observed to wear, introduced a man just entering on the verge of old age, whose face displayed that serious kind of charm which belongs to the

* The effect upon the editor was so strong as to awake him.

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bloom of such a period. He preserved still unimpaired that vivid sight, whereby he seemed capable of fathoming the hearts of men. At the same time his eyes shed such soft effulgence, as indicated a spirit no less benign than penetrating. His port was noble, and every circumstance of his carriage elevated, but without any thing imperious or haughty. All was the natural gesture of a superior mind, unconscious of its grandeur. He walked forward with meek majesty. The moment he appeared, the attendants of VIRTUE, struck as by some heavenly vision, gazed on him with the enthusiasm of admiration. Afterwards turning to the GODDESS, they seemed to wait her motions, with earnest but respectful suspense. She made a sign to a certain number of them; on which like lightening they darted from their places, and thronging round the votary accompanied him as he stood near the Throne. Their names were, *Equity, Mercy, Magnanimity, Temperance, Liberty, Rhetoric, TRUTH, Politeness, Prudence, RELIGION, and The Genius*

nius of Britain. An attention still as midnight prepared the Audience to hear the attestation of the *Recorder*. The *Recorder*, raising his arm, and assuming a tone more solemn than usual, exclaimed with rapture, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, the boast of humanity, and the favourite of GOD!" He then proceeded to give the following account of this wonderful Personage.

He was educated in a private station, and suffered, on entering the world, such hardships as, meeting with a fund of native goodness, confirmed him in his reverence for VIRTUE, and gave a finer edge to all his affections. By the sole prevalence of transcendent probity, and equal talents, in every stage through which he passed, he was early advanced to the place of highest trust and authority under his Sovereign. Far from elated, he was rather humbled by it, and rejoiced in his elevation only as it opened to him a wider prospect of the wants of mankind, and furnished him with a larger capacity to relieve

them. Neither the corruptions of a court could infect, nor its sunshine dazzle him, inaccessible alike to *Luxury* and *Avarice*, as well as an implacable enemy to injustice and falsehood, by whomsoever practised. He listened to no persuasion but that of TRUTH and *Equity*, knew no interest but that of *Liberty* and VIRTUE, having never been a slave to his own passions, nor a tool to those of others. His tongue was a stranger to flattery; but no one ever contradicted more obligingly. He was perfectly well-bred, but incapable of a mean compliance; and he had no occasion for it. He was sure to please by the all-attractive power of a mild integrity. Though of no party, he had the testimony of every party; both friends and foes agreeing to proclaim his worth, if he indeed had any foes, who hated none but bad men, and who rather pitied than hated even these. When the duties of his arduous province would permit him, no one better understood to put off the dress of greatness, and to enjoy the sweets of elegant and learned tranquillity in

in a circle of kindred minds, with whom he mingled in the closest sympathies of *Friendship*. How delightful was it to see him, on such occasions, alternately imparting and sharing the soul of wit and hilarity, familiarizing *Philosophy* to Mirth, and insinuating the sublimest lessons, amidst the simplicity and play of common conversation! His house was the dwelling place of Order, Contentment, and Affection. He was equally revered and confided in by his children, to whom (so reasonable had he formed them!) he did not refuse any thing they ever asked him. He was adored by his servants, from the highest to the meanest. His closet was *Wisdom's* shrine. There, remote from the din of a distempered world, he conversed with his Creator, and himself, adored the divine administration, interceded for the human race, and, harmonizing with the supreme benevolence, devised plans of wide-extended usefulness; for that was the ruling passion of his nature. His Prince, his Country, Society at large, these were the magnificent objects that oc-

cupied his time, and labours, and genius,
 and heart: for these he was willing to live;
 and for these too, if necessary, he would
 have dared to die. By fulfilling this noble
 destination, he believed the Universal Parent
 was served most acceptably; and he was
 gloriously fitted to fulfill it. A quick and
 comprehensive understanding, invigorated
 by continual exercise, enlightened by va-
 rious literature, and refined by the truest
 taste; a temper all alive, yet calm, and
 patient as *Charity* herself, though exquisitely
 sensible; on oratory intensely glowing, yet
 always under entire command, and calcu-
 lated to convince no less than move; a ten-
 der feeling of the rights of men; a deep
 insight into the interests of Britain, and such
 an intuition into the most intricate cases,
 as almost approached to angelic intelli-
 gence; these extraordinary qualities con-
 spired in him to accomplish the senator, the
 statesman, the judge, the counsellor of roy-
 alty, the guardian of the people, the patron
 of merit and learning, the protector of
 persecuted innocence, and the terrour of
 insolent

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insolent oppression. To these generous cares he sacrificed his ease, his sleep, his health, his gain, his books, his company, nay and often the sweetest charms of *Friendship*, *serenity*, and self-enjoyment. To him his master, his fellow citizens, the worthy, the wretched, every where, fled as to their best resource, next to Omnipotence. To him the meanest found ready access. He was a Tutelar Deity on earth. In his presence, the frowns of *Justice* were softened into smiles, *Sorrow* was transformed into gladness, *Violence* stood daunted, *Fraud* forgot his snares; and the sons of Belial, blushing, stole from under the shelter of the laws.

“ The young men saw him and hid themselves; and the aged arose and stood up.

“ The nobles held their peace. The

“ princes laid their hand on their mouth.

“ When the ear heard him, then it blessed

“ him; and when the eye saw him, it gave

“ witness to him: because he delivered the

“ poor that cried, and the fatherless, and

“ him that had none to help him. The

“ blessing of him that was ready to perish,

came.

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“ came upon him; and he caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. He was eyes to the blind, and feet was he to the lame. He was a father to the poor; and the cause which he knew not, he searched out. He brake the jaws of the wicked, and pluckt the spoil out of his teeth. He put on righteousness, and it clothed him. His judgment was as a robe and a diadem.”

The *Recorder* ceased. VIRTUE contemplated the illustrious man, with silent but sovereign complacence. After a considerable pause, she rose from her seat and said, “ Hail, thou best and greatest of men! the darling of Heaven and me, hail! I chuse thee for my delegate, to represent henceforth my person to thy mortal brethren. Bear witness, earth and skies, that VIRTUE has invested TALBOT with her fairest honours!”

Having thus spoken, she desired him to ascend the Throne, and take his place at her right hand. With modest reluctance he obeyed. She then adorned his head with
a tiara

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a tiara of gold, which bore this remarkable inscription, ΠΑΝΤΑ ΚΑΛΩΣ, importing that HE HAD PERFORMED HIS PART NOBLY. On which, methought, the whole assembly burst into such thunder of applause, as awaked me from my Dream into the sober tenour of ordinary life.

THE END.



